

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026

10:15 a.m.

(* Indicates: all who are able to please stand.)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*CALL TO WORSHIP *O Thou Joyful*

**O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
Love revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing
And all praises bringing:
Glorify, glorify the holy Child!**

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

*OPENING SENTENCES

Come all who are faithful and all who seek faith.

**It is the season to sing and rejoice for God has fulfilled
his promise.**

Angels have proclaimed the good news to shepherds.

**Wise men followed the light of the star as they search for
the child.**

We come to this hour searching for the light of Christ.

And we come to offer our lives and our praise.

Unison: **Let us worship the Lord!**

*HYMN *Angels from the Realms of Gladness*

*OPENING PRAYER **Almighty God, your Word became
flesh among us and we thank you for the love he reveals to
us. Open our hearts during this worship so that we might
be receptive not only to Jesus as the new born baby but to
him as our Lord and Savior. Help us become your children**

again, reborn in your Spirit, committed to following Christ's teaching and example. This we ask in his name. Amen.

ANTHEM *At His Name*

GOD'S WORD FOR US

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Hebrews 1:1-4. 4:14-16*
John 1:1-18

SERMON *Light in the Darkness*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *O Christ The Same*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Lois Wilmot Family, Ed Lopeman, Stephanie Heilstedt, Larry Grosenbach, John Dergance, Karin, Chelsea, George, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Maxine, Crosby Family, K. J., Karen Hauser, Holly and family of Bob Antkowiak, Steve Theisinger, Debbie, Ristau Family, Family of Gene, Kevin Kramer, Dixie, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*

OFFERING

OFFERING RESPONSE Christmas Doxology

**Praise God who as a gift of love
Came as the son from heaven above
Born of the Spirit here on earth
To bring to all the soul's rebirth.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy Jesus, the angles offered you their heavenly songs.
The shepherds gave their wonder and praise. The wise
men brought their gifts and adoration. With our gifts we**

give you our praise and adoration, and offer ourselves for your service. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

...With faithful people in every time and place we say,
“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.”

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

When the elements are distributed, trays will be passed containing the packaged elements for those who prefer them, followed by trays with bread for those who prefer unpackaged elements. Then we will all partake of the bread together. Then trays will be passed with cups of wine and grape juice and we will drink the cup. The wine is dark colored, and the grape juice is light colored.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **Thank you God for inviting us to this table where we know Christ and receive all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and empower us for your service. We pray these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

WE GO TO SERVE IN JESUS' NAME

*CAROL *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

-Family of Lois Wilmot
-Ed Lopeman, for health

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Lois Wilmot. Lois passed away December 29th. Services will be Saturday, January 10th at 11:00am at Hurst Funeral Home in LaSalle with Pastor Alex officiating. Visitation will be 10:00am-11:00am.

Please join us for fellowship refreshments after worship today. There is a new sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide treats after worship.

Please Note: Pastor Alex will be on vacation until tomorrow. Thank you to Rev. Kay Harding for preaching today and being available for emergencies. Her phone number is: (815)993-9220

*If you would like to make an announcement during worship, please request a microphone. Thank you!

Tune in to Pastor Alex every Sunday morning at 8:25 on 103.9 WLPO. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!

Join the CREW! Our Sunday School program, **CREW**, is meeting again every Sunday at 9:00 AM. Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for stories, games, crafts, and activities that help build faith and friendships. We're excited to see you this Sunday!

Bible Study is underway again Tuesdays! Our Tuesday night Bible Study will resume this week. Class starts at 6:30pm and you can participate in person at the church or Zoom on-line. The Zoom link can be found on our WEB page, zionperu.org. We will be discussing Episode 1 of season 4 of The Chosen. You can view that episode (and many other programs) by opening a free account on BYUtv. All are welcome!

2026 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Your envelope number will be the same as you have this year. If you have leftover 2025 envelopes, you can use one of those and write the 2026 date on it. If you are giving for more than one week, you do not have to use a separate envelope (or a separate check) for each week. You can mark the envelope for the weeks that are covered in it. Zion Church again thanks you for your continued support during these hard times. Your generosity has been a blessing for the continued operation and mission of Zion.

Zion Diners met December 18th at Liberty Restaurant for the Annual Christmas Party with Dixie Tonozzi as host. Everyone had a festive time! The Diners will meet again on Thursday, January 15th at 6:00pm with Bill & Phyllis Bender as hosts. The place to be announced. All are welcome!

Souper Bowl Sunday will run Jan. 25th – Feb. 8th. Everyone is asked to bring cans of soup to worship and use them to vote for the team they think will win the Super Bowl, or the team they hope will win. The Sunday after the game, those who voted for the losing team are asked to bring one can of soup for every losing vote they cast. Jim Greening also says those who voted for the winning team should bring more soup to celebrate their team's victory. All the soup will be given to the Food Pantry. So who are you going to vote for?

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25th after worship. If you have a report, please turn it into the office by Friday, January 16th.

Feeding the Future – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry launched a major fundraiser to fund their new building purchase, necessary renovations, and expanded food programs —so that we can continue to serve the growing number of individuals and families in need across our region. Local individuals, churches and businesses are joining together to make this vision a reality. Learn more or donate at www.ivfoodpantry.com or by contacting the Pantry directly.

Did you know? Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

Prayer Requests In the Bulletin We are grateful for the privilege of praying for one another. To help us keep our prayer list current, each new request will be included in the bulletin for four weeks. After that time, we will remove it unless we are asked to continue sharing it longer. If you would like a request to remain, please let us know—we want to walk alongside you in prayer for as long as you need.

Zion UCC is providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the **Peru PADS homeless shelter** each month. Every little bit helps us provide a nutritious meal each month through May. Write a check to the church and note "**PADS Meals**." Or go online and donate through the Giving page on our website. Your donation helps provide a healthy, hearty meal to those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry!

HELP WANTED! Ushers: We are building a new Ushers List. If you previously served as usher and would like to serve again, we would like to add you to the new ushers list. Previously ushers served for an entire month. Ushers now will serve when they are available to serve even for a single Sunday. You can let Larry Grosenbach know you will serve as usher or email ushers@zionperu.org to be added to the ushers list. Evangelism: We are updating our visitor information about Zion church and will be creating a visitor packet that will contain our new updated information about Zion Church and a thank you gift or two for them visiting. If you would like to help the Evangelism Team with the visitor project you can let Pastor Alex, Jerry Koehler or email evangelism@zionperu.org.

Live Life (Pre and Post Transplant Support Group) meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Zion UCC.

The Compassionate Friends Group meets at Zion every fourth Thursday at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to any parent who has lost a child. Please contact the church office for information.

Weight Watchers is meeting every Saturday morning at 8:00 here at Zion. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Tonica Church is collecting personal hygiene products to give away. Items needed include: *Bar soap *Shower gel *Shampoo Razors

*Deodorant *Toothbrushes *Toothpaste *Combs or Brushes

*Contact Diane Gebhardt with any questions!

You can now donate to Zion by Text to (815)393-1954

Enter the amount you want to give to Zion in the Text box and send. If it is the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

Zion United Church of Christ

6th & Grant Streets, Peru, IL

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

office@zionperu.org 1-815-223-2671 www.zionperu.org

Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Erin Lewis
Liturgist	Marcia Brown
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Phyllis Bender & Dixie Tonozzi

Attendance Dec. 28: In Person: 40 + 6 children

On YouTube: 12

This week:

Monday, January 5th

Pastor Alex back

Tuesday, January 6th

6:30pm Bible Study

Epiphany

Wednesday, January 7th

6:30pm Choir practice

Saturday, January 10th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, January 11th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

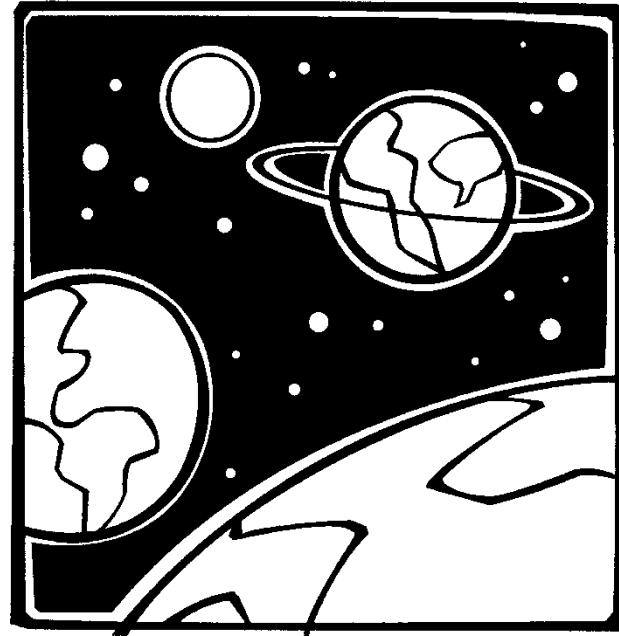
9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

10:15am Worship in person or on YouTube

Followed by Fellowship Refreshments

Zion
United Church of Christ



Through him the world was made.

Jn 1:3

Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

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